

✦ Mission Collection 2026 ✦
February 21-22 through Easter

*"Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for the least of these... you did for me."
Jesus Christ*

Each year during Lent, we as a community of Christ, launch our Annual Lenten Mission Collection. Your generous gifts will support several mission projects that care for "the least of these" that Christ spoke of. Your past generosity has helped to provide: sewing machines for poor women in India; a source of clean water in Zambia, Haiti, and India; safe housing for young women in Bolivia; educational opportunities for children in Kenya, the Philippines and the Dominican Republic. These are just a few of the many ways that we have relieved suffering, and provided hope to mission initiatives throughout the world. Thank you!

In 2026 we will continue our support of two projects in the Dominican Republic, as well as one project in Wisconsin. These projects are:



- Our diocesan mission parish of **Santa Theresa in Elias Pina, Dominican Republic** where Fr. Mike Seis works tirelessly to meet the spiritual and physical needs of his parish. The parish consists of a church, a vocational high school, an elementary school and several chapels in the rural areas of the parish. The parish also sponsors projects that benefit parishioners: providing materials for home repairs; building latrines; the building of an aqueduct. This year Fr. Mike will **use our donation to help with the building of more latrines. This is not a very glamorous project, but a very necessary one providing sanitary facilities for the people of his parish, especially the ones living in the outlying areas.**
- The **Home for Malnourished Children in Las Matas, DR** where the Missionaries of Charity minister to restore health to seriously malnourished children and **will use our donation for needed repairs and supplies.** Fr. Mike says Mass for the sisters regularly and assures us that the sisters continue to do good work in the Elias Pina area.
- **St. Anthony's parish in Neopit, Wisconsin.** St. Anthony's is on the Menomonee Indian Reservation and faces many challenges. The slow economy and increase in inflation of the past few years has had a devastating effect on many of their parishioners. **Our donation will help to support their parish emergency fund.** Also, later this spring we will have a grocery collection for their parish food pantry. Watch the bulletin after Easter for a list of needed items and collection dates.

An Additional Project this Year Will Support Several Initiatives in India

Our Pastor, Fr. Chris, has several projects that we can support in his home country of India. As a member of the Norbertine order, Fr. Chris has suggested two projects that the order supervises in India and four projects that support his home parish.

1. Home for the Mentally III

This ministry is run by the Norbertine Fathers and provides care for men who are living with mental illness and have no family support. The home serves about 50 men, with the cost of three meals a day about \$120. Expenses for clothing, basic necessities, and medications are about \$4,000 per month. Besides food and shelter, this home offers dignity, routine, and compassionate care to some of the most vulnerable members of society.



Please keep these and all mission ministries in your prayers and may God bless your compassion and generosity for those in need.



2. Support for Elderly Women

Another Norbertine-supported outreach focuses on 70–90 elderly women, many of whom are widowed, abandoned, or without steady income. These women live in their own homes rather than in a communal residence. They receive assistance with food, groceries, clothing, medications, and other basic needs. Regular visits and support help them maintain independence and dignity in their later years. The estimated cost for this project is about \$2000 per month. This ministry allows elderly women to remain in their familiar surroundings while still receiving essential care and companionship.

3. Additional Toilet Facilities for the School

The middle school where Fr. Chris studied is in urgent need of improved sanitation facilities. The school currently has 179 students and existing toilet facilities are not sufficient for that number of students. Additional toilets are essential for health, hygiene, and the overall well-being of the children. The estimated cost for this project is about \$5,000. This project would have an immediate and lasting impact on students' daily lives.



4. Repair and Extension of the Parish Church Sacristy

Fr. Chris's home parish church is in need of repair, particularly the extension and renovation of the sacristy. The estimated cost for this project is about \$5,000. The sacristy is used daily for liturgical preparation and needs to be safe and functional. This repair will help sustain the spiritual life of the parish for years to come.

5. Renovation of the Parish Multi-Purpose Hall

The parish has a multi-purpose hall that is currently in very poor and dilapidated condition. The hall is used for parish gatherings, wedding receptions, catechism classes, youth programs, and community meetings. The estimated cost to renovate and restore the hall is approximately \$90,000. Restoring this space would allow the parish community to gather again for formation, fellowship, and celebrations.



6. Educational Support for Poor Students in India

In addition to parish and Norbertine projects, Fr. Chris has also been helping poor students in India who are struggling financially to continue their education. Many families are unable to afford basic school expenses. The annual tuition fee per student ranges from \$500 to \$1000, depending on the grade level. Support helps cover tuition, school supplies, and basic educational needs. Even a modest contribution can make a life-changing difference by keeping a child in school and giving them hope for a better future.

A portion of our India donation will be designated for the Norbertine Projects and a portion will be designated for Fr. Chris's Parish Projects.

This **Mission Collection** will take place now through Easter. Please know that 100% of our collection will go to these projects. Please use the special Mission Collection envelope found in today's bulletin or mark your donation "**2026 Mission Collection**". The Mission Committee contacts are: Terri Bourassa 731-6482 and Kathy Kleckner 738-0632. Mission Committee members include Sue Taylor, Fritz and NorRita Corzmeier, Kathy Kleckner, Otto and Carolyn Cox, and Terri Bourassa.

Thank You for Reading to the End ☺

Please keep these and all mission ministries in your prayers and may God bless your compassion and generosity for those in need.

Fr. Chris's Trip Home 2026



St. James Middle School - Tiruchirappalli, Tamilnadu, India